IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group: to be assigned Examiner: to be assigned

In re application of Bruce Gordon RAMSAY

S/N: to be assigned

Filed: Contemporaneous Herewith

For: VACUUM CHAMBER LOAD LOCK STRUCTURE AND ARTICLE TRANSPORT MECHANISM

Atty. Dkt.: 99A429 (DIV)

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to action on the merits of the subject application, please enter the following amendments to the specification and claims.